

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01

AF-10 /181 W

----- 082240

R 130501Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR US IS XF

SUBJ: EBAN'S COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ME

1. AT LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY, I EXPRESSED TOFONMIN ABBA EBAN MY GRATIFICATION FOR HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REMARKS ON THE ME MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AT HIS SEPTEMBER 5 PRESS CONFERENCE. I NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS APPEARED TO BE MIS-UNDERSTOOD BY SOME IN ISRAEL AND THIS LED TO SOME EXAGGERATED AND EXCITED SPECULATION IN THE LOCAL PRESS. EBAN'S REASONED VIEWS, HOWEVER, HAD A DECIDED CALMING EFFECT.

2. EBAN REPLIED HE WAS MOST PLEASED THAT THE DAY AFTER HIS VIEWS WERE PUBLISHED SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER CONFIRMED BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HIS (EBAN'S) VIEWS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS DID NOT SIGNAL ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL.

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3. WE THEN HAD A DISCUSSION OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM,
DURING WHICH EBAN PROPOUNDED THE USUAL ISRAELI LINE THAT
THINGS WOULD REALLY WORK OUT FINE FOR THE U.S., THEREBY
ATTEMPTING TO MINIMIZE ANY IMPLICATIONS THAT THE OIL
SITUATION MIGHT HAVE FOR FUTURE U.S. (OR GOI) ME
POLICY. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT
WAS DETERMINED TO TRY TO FREE US FROM OUR FUTURE PROJECTED
DEPENDENCE ON ME OIL. I ALSO NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S
RECENT REMARKS SHOULD GIVE POTENTIAL "OIL BLACKMAILERS"
PAUSE. I REMINDED EBAN, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE
PEOPLE IN IOWA AND KANSAS WERE EVER FACED WITH THE CHOICE
BETWEEN GAS FOR THEIR CARS AND HEAT FOR THEIR HOMES AS AGAINST
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, THE GOI SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS WHAT
THEIR DECISION WOULD BE. EBAN DID NOT TRY TO TAKE ISSUE WITH
ME ON THIS.
KEATING

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